

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the last sentence of paragraph [0004] with the following amended sentence:

The outer surface of the metal insert is formed hexagonal, whereby this hexagonal outer surface can be gripped with a tool upon making the threaded connection.

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] The outer surface of the connecting piece 1 is provided with ribs 9 in the direction of the periphery. The ribs 9 strengthen the structure of the wall of the body 4. As seen from Figure 2, the ribs 9 are formed such that they have straight portions 10 on opposite sides of the connecting piece 1 that function as gripping surfaces for an adjustable wrench, set wrench, pipe tongs or the like tool. Thus, making the threaded connection is facilitated with ribs 9. There are preferably six straight portions, whereby the shape of the outer periphery of the ribs 9 corresponds to the shape of a nut. Between the adjacent straight portions 10, however, there is a rounded portion 11. Due to the rounded portions 11, the gripping surface formed by the ribs 9 is not very large, whereby utilizing ribs 9 does not allow too great a tightening force to be directed at the threaded connection. If the tightening force grows too great, the tool is turned around relative to the connecting piece 1 due to the rounded portion 11, and the threaded connection is not tightened too much.

Please replace paragraph [0020] with the following amended paragraph:

[0020] The outer surface of the metal insert 5 may be provided with ribs 12 in the direction of the periphery, by means of which the attachment between the plastic material of the body 4 and the metal insert 5 is improved. The ribs 9 outside the body 4 are preferably arranged at ~~the~~ substantially the same points as the ribs 12 of the metal insert 5. Thus, the wall of the body 4 has substantially uniform thickness over the whole area.

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Please replace the abstract with the following amended abstract:

A first element is connected to a first end of the connecting piece and a second element is connected to a second end of the connecting piece. At least one end of the connecting piece is provided with a thread, whereby the connecting piece is connectable for instance to a pipe or fitting with a threaded connection. The connecting piece may be made of plastic, ~~for example~~, in such a way that a metal insert provided with a thread is arranged at at least one end of the plastic body of the connecting piece, or the connecting piece is may be made substantially completely of thermoplast in such a way that the thermoplastic body is provided with a thread. The outer surface of the connecting piece is provided with a gripping member. The gripping member is formed and dimensioned such that it gives way earlier than the connecting member thread and/or basic structure.